

## Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 VO-05 CA-01 INSE-00  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /045 W  
-----017579 310626Z /12  
R 301211Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0237  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 25043

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF  
SUBJ: INDOCHINA REFUGEE PROBLEM

1. DURING INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON INTERIOR MINISTER  
LEK, AMBASSADOR USED OCCASION TO DISCUSS INDOCHINA  
REFUGEE SITUATION.

2. AMBASSADOR TOLD GENERAL LEK THAT WE FULLY UNDERSTOOD  
THE PROBLEMS BROUGHT BY THE HEAVY INFLOW OF REFUGEES  
FROM INDOCHINA TO THAILAND. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION  
FOR THE CONTINUED RTG EFFORTS IN ACCEPTING THESE  
REFUGEES AND CARING FOR THEM. THE AMBASSADOR SAID  
HE SPECIFICALLY WANTED TO REITERATE THAT USG INTENDS  
TO CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE RTG AND UNHCR EFFORTS  
IN HANDLING THIS DEEPLY SENSITIVE AND HUMANITARIAN  
PROBLEM. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED OUR FINANCIAL CONTRI-  
BUTIONS TO THE UNHCR EFFORT, OUR PAST REFUGEE  
ACCEPTANCE PROGRAMS, AND OUR INTENTION TO MAINTAIN A  
SIGNIFICANT REFUGEE ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM IN THE FUTURE.

3. IN THAT CONTEXT, THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE QUESTION  
OF RESETTLEMENT IN THAILAND OF SOME OF THE REFUGEES.  
HE NOTED THE LARGE NUMBER STILL COMING INTO THE COUNTRY  
AND POINTED OUT THAT ANY EVENTUAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
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REFUGEE PROBLEM WOULD INVOLVE SOME RESETTLEMENT IN  
THAILAND.

4. LEK INDICATED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE POINTS MADE  
BY THE AMBASSADOR. WHILE INDICATING THAT DEPUTY  
INTERIOR MINISTER GENERAL PREM WAS CHARGED WITH  
FOLLOWING THE REFUGEE PROBLEM, LEK SAID THAT HE

PERSONALLY UNDERSTOOD THE NEED TO CONSIDER SOME LOCAL RESETTLEMENT OPTIONS. LEK SAID HE HAS STRESSED THE NEED TO FIND ADEQUATE LAND FOR THE REFUGEES. AS DEFENSE MINISTER HE HAD EXPLAINED THE NEED TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER FINDING REMOTE AREAS IN THE COUNTRY WHERE REFUGEES COULD BE EVENTUALLY RESETTLED, FOR INSTANCE HIGHLAND AREAS FOR THE HMONG. IN THE CASE OF THE LAO THE PROBLEM OF LAND WAS MORE DIFFICULT SINCE THEY LIKE THE THAI WERE LOWLAND FARMERS.

5. THE AMBASSADOR THANKED LEK FOR HIS POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE VIEWS AND NOTED OUR WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST WITH OTHERS IN ANY RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS THE THAI MIGHT DECIDE ON. HE NOTED THE VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFER OF DOLLARS TWO MILLION FOR INITIAL STUDIES AND/OR PILOT PROJECTS IS AN INDICATION OF OUR READINESS TO ASSIST.

6. COMMENT: GENERAL LEK WAS CAREFUL TO MAKE CLEAR THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND THAT HE HAD NOT YET IMMERSSED HIMSELF IN THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. CONSEQUENTLY, HIS REMARKS WERE, AS HE NOTED, PERSONAL. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SPOKE EASILY AND DEMONSTRATED A WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO A SERIOUS DIALOGUE ON RESETTLEMENT WITH NONE OF THE DEFENSIVENESS WHICH HAD BEEN CHARACTERISTIC OF THAI OFFICIALS EARLIER IN THE YEAR. ABRAMOWITZ  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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